48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report. The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. So far 208 coal blocks have been allocated with an approximate geological reserves of 48.82 billion tonnes, upto November, 2009 and majority of the coal blocks have been allotted after 2005.

The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestone chart attached with the allocation letter rests entirely with the allocattee company. In the terms and conditions of the allocation letters, it is categorically mentioned that in the event of willful delay in the development of coal blocks and in setting up of the end use project, the Government shall take appropriate action to de-allocate the said block. Government periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocattee companies in the Review Meetings. Wherever delays are noticed, Government issues show cause notices and advisories to such allocattees cautioning them to bring the coal blocks into production as per the guidelines/milestones chart. Similarly, the Coal Controller's office is also monitoring on regular basis the achievement of different milestones. Further, the allocatees have to submit Bank Guarantee which remains valid all the times till the production from the coal block reaches its peak rated capacity. The last review meeting was held on 22nd and 23rd June, 2009 with all the coal block allocattees to review the development of coal blocks and the end use projects.

The State Government have also been requested to form a Monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to facilitate expeditious development of coal/lignite blocks.

So far, seven coal blocks have been de-allocated after following due process.

Exploration of unproved coal deposits

1844. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has asked the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute to explore the unproved coal deposits in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any exact estimate of coal reserves has been assessed and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether several coal mines of CIL are lying abandoned; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to explore possibilities of digging coal from those mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Within the command area of the Coal India Limited (CIL) in the country. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute is taking up exploration of unproved coal deposits in CIL, Non-CIL captive and other blocks. In 2009-10, a total of 3.60 lakh meters of exploratory drilling has been programmed through departmental resources (2.10 lakh m) and outsourcing (1.50 lakh m). Out of 3.60 lakh m of exploratory drilling, 2.31 lakh m is targeted in CIL blocks, 1.17 lakh m in non-CIL/Captive mining blocks and 0.12 lakh m in promotional (regional) exploration blocks.

(c) As per the latest inventory of geological resources of coal in India, prepared by Geological Survey of India (GSI), a cumulative total of 267.21 billion tonnes (bt) of geological resources of coal (105.82 bt in 'proved category', 123.470 bt in 'indicated category' and 37.920 bt in 'inferred category') have so far been estimated in the country as on 1.4.2009.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A global Expression of Interest (EOI) was floated by CIL for 18 abandoned/derelict underground coalmines of CIL for salvaging, rehabilitation and operation through Joint Venture. 14 companies participated in this global EOI out of which 10 companies have been shortlisted. A general Bid document for selection of joint venture partner has been prepared.

Import of coal

1845. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has faced coal shortage in many power projects;

(b) if so, to what extent the country has so far been able to import coal from Australia and other countries where prices have fallen to the lowest level; and

(c) whether JSW Energy has started talks to source coal from Indonesia and South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated that as against the total coal requirement of 404 million tonnes required by power utilities during 2009-10, the indigenous availability would be about 363 million tonnes. Therefore, Ministry of Power has advised the power utilities to import 28.70 million tonnes which is equivalent to about 41 million tonnes of indigenous coal, during 2009-10 to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability.